

Freedom to Read

Section 10

ALA Library Bill of Rights key statements listed as quotes:

Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

ALA Library Bill of Rights paraphrase in your own words:

Everyone in the school community should have access to the library, its materials, and services. This includes preschool, elementary school, middle school students and faculty. Also, parents should have full access. Materials should not be censored.

AASL Statement on Confidentiality of Records key statements listed as quotes

The members of the American Library Association,* recognizing the right to privacy of library users, believe that records held in libraries which connect specific individuals with specific resources, programs or services, are confidential and not to be used for purposes other than routine record keeping: i.e., to maintain access to resources, to assure that resources are available to users who need them, to arrange facilities, to provide resources for the comfort and safety of patrons, or to accomplish the purposes of the program or service. The library community recognizes that children and youth have the same rights to privacy as adults.

AASL Statement on Confidentiality of Records paraphrase in your own words

Our job is to provide our population with resources. The information we gain during our interactions with students, teachers, and parents is to be kept private. For example, if a parent came to the library seeking information on divorce, I would not share this information with anyone else.

The Freedom to Read key statements listed as quotes

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

The Freedom to Read paraphrase in your own words

We as a people should absolutely be able to read what we want. If we are not allowed to read “bad” things how can we understand what makes it bad or its depth? For example, if for some reason our children were not allowed to read about Hitler or the Holocaust, how would they understand that period in our history? How much more will they appreciate our freedoms if they read about that period in history? If we are not able to read all that we want, how can we form our own opinions? How can we gain overall perspective or complete understanding? We should not be spoon-fed, we do need to develop some internal toughness. If we’re not allowed to experience a range of good to bad, this will never happen.

Statement on Intellectual Freedom key statements listed as quotes

The development of library collections in support of an institution’s instruction and research programs should transcend the personal values of the selector. In the interests of research and learning, it is essential that collections contain materials representing a variety of perspectives on subjects that may be considered controversial.

Statement on Intellectual Freedom paraphrase in your own words

Regardless of our personal beliefs and dispositions, we as librarians have a responsibility to develop a well-rounded collection for our patrons. When developing our collections, we must include resources that show a variety of perspectives. We cannot exclude resources based on subject, we have a duty to include them. Patrons of our library should have access to information on subjects they need/want to learn about.